TODAY
Sunny, 80s.
TONIGHT
Cloudy, 50s.
TOMORROW
Cloudy, 60s.
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Vol. 176, No. 113

NEW YORK POST

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30, 1977 25 CENTS
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P.M. STOCKS

KEY JFK WITNESS KILLS HIMSELF

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learned of comments he made to a Dutch journalist.

According to sources, de Mohrenschildt had recently indicated in an interview with the newsman, William Oltmans, that he in some way felt responsible for Oswald's behaviour.

Oltmans, who knew De Mohrenschildt, a professor, for some time, contacted the committee several weeks ago, the sources said, and outlined what he had heard from him.

"He said to me, 'How do you think the media would react if I came out and said that I feel responsible for Oswald's behavior?', Oltmans told committee investigators.

VANISHED

Oltmans said after the interview that de Mohrenschildt had accompanied him to Europe and then disappeared.

The committee was interested and sent investigator Gaeton J. Fonzi to see de Mohrenschildt after he was located in the Palm Beach mansion where he was apparently vacationing with his daughter. The $300,000 home was owned by Nancy Tilton 3d, said to be his sister-in-law.

Palm Beach County sheriff Richard Willie said de Mohrenschildt returned yesterday to the mansion and learned that Fonzi had been trying to contact him about testifyng before the commitee in Washington.

'VERY UPSET'

Wille said it appeared that the professor became "extremely upset when he learned of the investigators' efforts to reach him.

"We dont know the full details yet," the sheriff added.

Wille said only two maids and a chauffeur were on the estate at the time, "but it appears that the professor put a 20-gauge double-barreled shotgun in his mouth and pulled the trigger. We're 99 per cent certain that he killed himself."

De Mohrenschildt's death sparked a flurry of activity in the West Palm Beach offices of Florida State Attorney David Bludworth.

He summoned several of his chief staff officers and Wille for conferences and witness interviews.

Among those brought in free-lance writer Edward J. Epstein, who said last night he had interviewed the professor Monday and yesterday at the Breakers Hotel in West Palm Beach in connection with a book he is writing on Oswald.

Epstein has a contract with Reader's Digest and already has written several books on the assassination.

"I don't mean to be evasive," Epstein said, "but police told me not to talk about his death with anybody."

De Mohrenschildt, born in Mozir, Russia, April 17, 1911, arrived in West Palm Beach by plane from Brussels March 17. According to officials at Bishop College in Dallas, where he taught, he left the campus March 1 on a three-day leave to visit a sick daughter in New Orleans. He was due back on campus March 21.

Both de Mohrenschildt and his now-estranged wife, Jeanne, were interviewed by the Warren Commission in 1964. In the final report, the couple were exonerated.

Nor has there been any evidence linking them in any way to the assassination of President Kennedy."

De Mohrenschildt's connection with Oswald have intrigued committee researchers and investigators. In fact, sources say they have suspected him of actually being a member of the intelligence community.

AIDED OSWALD

In June 1962, the Warren report said, de Mohrenschildt befriended Oswald when Oswald and his family returned from an aborted defection to Russia. Oswald went to live in 1962 in Fort Worth where, de Mohrenschildt—along with other members of a small Russian-speaking community—provided food and shelter for the Oswald family.

In Palm Beach today an autopsy is being performed to determine whether de Mohrenschildt's death was a suicide.

Was Oswald's close friend

By JOSEPH BERGER and DAVID ROSENTHAL

A "crucial witness" for the House committee investigating the assassination of President Kennedy has been found shot to death in Palm Beach, Fla.

Police there said it appeared to be a suicide.

The victim, Russian-born George de Mohrenschildt, 65, had been a close acquaintance of Lee Harvey Oswald and his wife Marina shortly before the Kennedy slaying in November, 1963..

When informed of de Mohrenschildt's death, House assassination committee member Richard Preyer (D-N.C.) said:

"He was a crucial witness for us, based on the new information he had. He was intimately involved with Oswald."

One committee source said the panel was just getting set to interview de Mohrenschildt when he died. The source said that de Mohrenschildt was "the key guy" in the House inquiry.

According to Washington sources, the committee's interest in de Mohrenschildt came after it had

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